

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Stewart Settlement House

AND/OR COMMON

Stewart House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Massachusetts Street

CITY, TOWN

Gary

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE

018

COUNTY

Lake

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

North Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marion

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lake County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

2223 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Crown Point

STATE

Indiana 46307

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Stewart Settlement House is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood not far from downtown Gary, Indiana. Constructed in 1925 in a style known as Jacobethan Revival or Collegiate Gothic, the structure is two and a half stories in the shape of a "U".

Although the facade material is largely brick, stucco and wood are on the north and south gable ends and on the third level of the north leg of the "U". Windows occur somewhat irregularly and have double hung sashes, many small lights, and label window surrounds.

The first floor of the main (west) elevation departs from the Jacobethan Revival style and appears more like a series of modern store fronts with large plate glass windows. There are five entrances across the front. The second story windows are divided by brick buttresses. A central stone plaque identifies the structure as the John Stewart Settlement House and gives the date of construction. Two gabled dormers with overhangs flank a central gable. Two triangular dormers break the lines of the high gable slate roof above the two gable dormers.

A gable projection covers entrances at the rear of the north side and on the inner legs of the "U". The rear (east) side has three chimneys at various locations and has three gable dormers with overhangs.

The structure's exterior is largely unchanged except for routine maintenance. A projecting sign has been added near the center of the first story on the front elevation. On the back side of the south leg, two windows and possibly an entrance appear to have been bricked up.

DATE: _____

BY: _____

BY: _____

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William W. Cooke

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Stewart Settlement House has had an important humanitarian role in the development of Gary, Indiana.

At the turn of the century, the area that is now Gary, Indiana, was on undisturbed landscape of sand dunes and marshes. This wilderness was selected by officials of United States Steel Corporation as an ideal site for a new steel mill and company town. By 1906 construction workers were laying the foundation for the first mill, and blacks made up one-third of this initial work. By 1907 the Negro population was large enough to be recognized as a definite ethnic group.

From the beginning, Gary was a carefully planned community with attention given to houses, streets, schools, and public facilities. Unfortunately this careful planning did not include blacks. Negroes were not allowed to purchase residences in the area developed by U.S. Steel, and they had to find make-shift housing in an area of poor streets and inadequate public services. Among the churches organized to serve the growing black population was Trinity Episcopal Methodist Church which was organized in 1916 in a tent. In 1920 Reverend Frank Delaney was appointed as the pastor of the small congregation and under his leadership John Stewart Settlement House became a center of service and support to the expanding black population. A board of directors organized to help the church in its social services program. Buildings were rented at 1527 Massachusetts Street and given the name of Stewart House to honor John Stewart, a Negro missionary to the Indians.

Stewart House furnished lodging and meals for jobless men and homeless women and children. Stewart House maintained a free medical clinic and dispensary, information and employment bureau, a day nursery, a week day church school, a meeting place for community clubs and committees, playgrounds, and tennis courts.

When the service programs expanded, it was determined that better facilities were needed. The U.S. Steel Corporation indicated its support for the project through donations of \$25,000 in cash and land from the Gary Land Company. The present structure is important as a link to Gary's development and as a product of Negro craftsman since both the architect, William W. Cooke, and contractor, Luther Moore, were blacks. Born in 1871, Cooke was educated at Claflin College Academy in South Carolina, Columbia University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He started his career in Washington, D.C. working as supervising architect for a number of Post Office buildings. Before moving to Gary in 1920, he was a professor at Wilberforce University. He designed a number of buildings in Lake County in addition to the Stewart House. When the Depression brought difficult economic times, he left private practice and returned to employment with the federal government.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Stewart House has been a major social service and community center for Negroes in Gary; it has been an entry point into the community, helping to stabilize new residents. Meals and lodging continued to be a major function. More than 65,000 people visited the facility in 1928. In the 1930's classes in nutrition were started. In recent years a child care center under the direction of Gary Neighbor Services has been started.

John Stewart Settlement House was born in the need to serve blacks who came to build Gary and work in the steel mills. It is a reminder of the contribution of black craftsmen. In a city which was built entirely in the twentieth century, the structure is important as one of the older buildings in the community and as a local example of the Jacobethan Revival style of architecture; it is one of the few institutional buildings in this style.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Yesterday in Gary: History of the Negro in Gary, by Dolly Millinder, 1967
 Gary Post Tribune, September 21, 1974.
 History of the Negro Race in Gary, Halstead & Phillips, Federal Writers Project (N.d.)
 Gary Post, February 14, 1936.
 John Stewart House Annual Reports, 1928, 1935
 Open House Brochure, November 1925

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	472070	46031840	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rev. L. Ray Sells, Urban Missioner

ORGANIZATION

Calumet District United Methodist Church

DATE

2-21-77

STREET & NUMBER

6949 Monroe Avenue

TELEPHONE

219-931-8022

CITY OR TOWN

Hammond, Indiana 46324

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Joseph Cloud 2/27-78

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER